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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian.

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Wayside Gatherings.

What to do with Doubts.—Here is Dr. Moffatt's advice : " When is doubt the great thing is to act upon what we do know, to go out and do something for our fellows. It is wonderful how our faith gets reinforced, for a great part of our melancholy and depression comes from sitting and brooding over our doubts. . . . . it was a wise word of the old Scots divine that " the best way to know God's mind in things that are doubtful is to be busy with what is clear. Is it not true that many of us talk about our uncertainties in religion when we should be acting on the ounce or inch of faith we possess ? Action and obedience will clear the mind as nothing else will."

* * *

Worcestershire Sauce.

The Rev. Harold Lawson, rector of Abbot's Morton, Worcestershire, has been giving eloquent expression to his Christian Catholicism. Three of his parishioners, it appears, attended a service conducted by a layman in a private house, and the reverend gentleman has now banned them from holding any official position in the Church. One of the three was the organ-blower, and in his communication to this young man the rector writes : " the Service was conducted by a person who held no authority from the Bishop or me : you must therefore on no account presume to help us in Church by blowing the organ. We could not have our music go up to heaven if the organ blower is one who insults God and His church." Two ladies are among the " delinquents " ; to these the rector writes in a similar strain. They must not take their places again in the choir or the service in which they are taking part may be cancelled, " which would amount to a great scandal . . . " By attending this service the ladies " committed the deadly sin for which the church's penalty is excommunication."

A short report of the rector's sermon on the following Sunday has just reached me : Preaching on the parable of the Marriage Feast he said : " An ignorant man went to the wedding feast without his wedding garment. What evil had the poor man done ? Yet they bound him hand and foot, and cast him into outer darkness. Cannot you imagine the public press going for our Lord ? And yet he tells this story. The world does not understand God. God is Love, God is justice and God is righteousness, yet God's very holiness cannot come into contact with man's disobedience. . . . the world was so far from God that it did not know that God could be vindictive."

* * *

Lest We Forget.

Armistice Celebrations take many minds back to the tremendous moment when arms were laid down on November 11th, 1918. " It still brings back in vivid perspective the fever and pain, and courage and endurance, the burning losses and the austere consolation of that world-agony which had lasted over four years. Not only is the memory uneffaced ; for many it seems to grow deeper in retrospect . . . . . .

But the day should not merely be one of looking backward. Gratitude or regret for the past are alike barren and unworthy unless they help us to sustain nobler resolves for the future. Abraham Lincoln struck the true note at Gettysburg when he urged that the thought of those who died for their country ought to kindle their successors to live for it. During the war the greatness and preciousness of our nation came right home to all of us and we counted the most terrible sacrifices as not too heavy for its welfare. Are we all so ready now to make the much lighter sacrifices which civil life asks of us in the same supreme cause . . . ? "

" Daily Chronicle—Nov. 12, 1926.

—A. W.

Notes of the Month.

Peace and Goodwill.

When these pages meet the eyes of our readers all Christians will be looking forward to the season of peace and goodwill which brings joy and happiness to millions of hearts ; and they will soon be preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ who has been to them the way, the truth and the life. Peace and goodwill among men is indeed the Christian ideal, for which all are required to strive, to hope and to pray. Yet looking at world affairs generally, as we find them at the present time, we perceive that all is not well. In many parts of the world strife and discord, suspicion and war are rife. One nation looks askance at another. Distrust and conflicting ideals are sadly in evidence and cause considerable mischief. Looking closer home, the population of these islands have but exchanged participation in the great War for industrial turmoil of an unprecedented nature which has resulted in dire calamity to the trade and prosperity of the country. Unemployment continues to be a cause of deep anxiety to all—especially to men immediately concerned in mitigating its consequences. Poverty is on the increase, and the poor are suffering privations of a serious nature. We honour the good men and women in Belfast and other places who are wrestling with distress and destitution. There is so much unrest in public affairs that the guides of the nations find it difficult to steer the various ships of state to a safe refuge ; and beneath the surface uneasy movements make their presence felt which bode no good to the grand structure of modern civilization. The season of goodwill is the fitting time to encourage more earnestly than ever the advent of Christian principles and a practical exemplification of them. If all nations and peoples are to live side by side rejoicing in each other's prosperity the solidarity of the human race must no longer be a pious opinion, but the desire of all hearts. The League of Nations is the one practical step to which all men of goodwill will loyally adhere ; but there is no efficacious remedy save the Christ spirit and the Christ life. Unless the soul of religion materialises in human breasts when engaged in the world's serious business, more than it has hitherto done, sin and misery will continue their ravages indefinitely. There is no lack of **religionism** among Christians, but the practical application of the spirit of love and brotherliness in the crucial tests of world antagonisms leaves much to be desired. Partial aims, local triumphs, spectacular demonstrations, sectarian aggrandisement and self-assertive ambitions are largely at variance with the spirit of Him who prayed " that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in Me, an I in Thee, that they may also be one in Us." We would earnestly inculcate the adoption of that practical Christian oneness of spirit which alone is certain to redeem the world, and to bring hope and comfort to the destitute and lowly ones of the earth.

Two Church Calendars.

The Calendar of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast, for November, contains several points of interest. The public are reminded that " membership of the Church is based on sympathy not on dogma. All who find its services spiritually helpful and wish to co-operate in its religious work are heartily welcomed into such fellowship of faith. The practical expression of a desire for membership is the taking of a sitting." The Rev. J. H. Rossington, M.A., B.D., announces that he " is always glad to meet inquirers in the Vestibule after Service or by appointment." The Minister in his letter drew attention under the heading " Lest we Forget," to the coming of the Anniversary of Armistice Day on November 11th. Excellent attendances to hear the course of sermons begun in October on " Representative Thinkers of To-day," are recorded.

The Calendar of " All Souls" Church, Belfast, for November, gives a welcome indication that minister and congregation are settling down to their winter's work. The Rev. S. P. Whitehouse has been delivering a striking series of Sunday Evening addresses which are well worth the attention of all serious minds and thoughtful people. We shall include in our next issue his address on " Shelley, the Atheist," as reported in the " Belfast Telegraph " on November 1st. On November 7th his discourse was on the problem of death based on the text, " How are the dead raised up ? " (1 Cor. 15 : 35.)

Autumnal Meetings.

The British and Foreign Unitarian Association held its Autumn Meetings this year in the 2nd week of November in Liverpool. The keynote was struck by the Rev.

Lawrence Redfern when he said "the denomination had come to a very interesting point in its history; there never was a time before when it was so true that 'none were for a party and all were for the Church.'" Judging by the subsequent proceedings and the tone of the speeches the prediction was abundantly justified. We do not remember in over thirty years' experience more virile and practical speeches than the ones we were privileged to read in the "Inquirer" of November 13th. They show that our co-religionists in England, both laymen and ministers, are tackling the problems of the day with grip and vigour. We particularly desire to dwell on the fruitful contributions of the laymen to the proceedings. Churches that are able to produce thoughtful, earnest, reverent, self-sacrificing laymen need not despair of the future nor be discouraged by the charge of failure which is some times brought against the Christian Church. We feel it necessary to refer to such names as those of Mr. Richard D. Holt and Mr. C. Sydney Jones, both of Liverpool, and well-known as generous supporters and eloquent advocates of reasonable religion. Mr. Harold Bailey of London, Chairman of the Association's Executive, spoke on the subject of "General Propaganda" and at the conclusion of his speech "emphasised the need for definite convictions, however jealously we guard our freedom." We claim the attention of the members of our Non-Subscribing Church to the considered opinion of this leading worker in our common cause. Definite convictions are indeed the chief need of modern times. They are requisites without which no church can ever properly fulfill its mission in the world. That excellent layman, Mr. H. G. Chancellor, of London spoke on "The Strengthening of Existing Churches" in a speech full of understanding of present conditions and advocated practical reforms calculated to make a flourishing Church. Among other things he said, "much wider co-operation with the minister in the work and worship of the Church was desirable; all the members should take a share. Their interests would be quickened, and a clear understanding of the principle of their faith would keep them staunch. Once remove indifference, the greatest of all our causes of weakness, then most of the others would be removed." Mr. W. R. Barclay, of Birmingham, spoke a much needed word on "The Drift to Superstition." He "defined superstitition as a false religious credulity, of false trust in invisible omens." His real subject, he said was "falsehood in religion." His reading of history revealed to him "that religion and superstitition were interwoven." Whatever may be said to the contrary there is truth in his dictum that "religion is not easy," but "a hard thing." He dwelt on the fact that there is a vein of spiritual cowardice in most people and a readiness to accept "promises to remove their burdens." Three visits to the United States impressed him with the fact that there was a "strong drift there towards Roman Catholicism. That had its parallel in this country." He dwelt on "the increasing power of the priesthood and the growing tendency to accept external authority in religion." He touched on the prevalence of Fundamentalism in that country. Both tendencies were "an indication of the emergence of spiritual cowardice: the attempt to escape personal responsibility. And this led to the habit of separating religion and life." According to him we are not altogether free from responsibility for this. "Do we not distinguish between religion and life when we divide things into sacred and secular? or when we identify religion and the Church? We have thus quoted largely from the accounts of the Autumnal Meetings to show our readers what our laymen in England are thinking and saying. Other notable speeches by ministers well worthy of attention may be read in "Inquirer" and the "Christian Life," two publications we would recommend heartily to our readers.

A Christmas Sermonette.

By the Rev. Percival Godding,
Banbridge.

Luke ii. 11.—"For unto you is born this day . . . . a Saviour."

What controversy has raged round the Birth and Nativity stories of the Christ. I wonder what Luke would have said about it all? Perhaps he would have smiled at some things told; but I am sure he would have been pained at others. "How readest thou?" is a pertinent question at any time.

Many of us are so sternly matter of fact. Jesus, himself, surely gave us the key whereby we can the better understand the celestial setting of the scene when he said of "These little ones—

"in heaven their angels do always
behold the face of my Father."

An Eastern mind can read; cannot we also? At the birth of every child an angel in heaven sings . . . . and at the birth of this wonderful Christ child, who was the Saviour of the World, surely the whole Angelic host on High sang praises to Him who sent the gift:

"Glory to God in the Highest
And on Earth Peace
And Good-will toward men."

The fault lies with us who seem to be so essentially of the earth earthy, that we cannot hear, least of all heed, these appealing Angelic strains:

"O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the Angels' sing."

He had a truer conception of the world significance of the Birth of Jesus, who named the Pagan 'Feast of the Sun,' as henceforth to be *the Birthday*. For that one great light of our Solar System governs, upbuilds, gives life to our physical, mortal frame; and He who was, and is 'The Light of the World,' governs, upbuilds, gives life to our spiritual immortal frame.

Our grasp of the great Eternal Truths can only be partial, and through symbols. For God alone "knows." "Not that *we* have apprehended," wrote the great Apostle, "But it is for us," said the same seer, in other place, "to strive for the light"—

"For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts to give the light ofthe knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Perhaps the children more nearly see that light—the light which can also be named Love. There be many who say it is all illusion, but at the same time would have the illusion kept from the children, for say they "Let the children have a good time!" The pity of it.

But let us not be so earth-bound that we cannot also see—though it may be with wistful yearning and aching heart, yet still see the glimmering of that light—

"That shines through the gloom
And points us to the skies."

An Anniversary Service in the Ulster Hall.

The Ulster Hall is fast becoming associated in the minds of many of our Church members with the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian or Unitarian Services. The short report in the last issue of this magazine of York Street's Anniversary Service, conducted by its Minister—Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A.,—all too brief to do justice to the auspicious event, recalls to one's mind the experiences of that evening. Three of us had covered the fourteen miles separating us from Belfast in quick time, and were congratulating ourselves when we arrived in the vicinity of the Hall, on our punctuality for there was still five minutes to go before the service would begin. The outer doors had not opened, so we thought and there was a sprinkling of people, which in another place we would have called a crowd on the pavement, waiting to be admitted. Soon we discovered that instead of being early, we were too late. The vast Hall was already overcrowded, and the doors had to be closed, and still more and more were coming and moving off as they realised the situation, and some waiting around in wonderment. It was a disappointment to us who had come so far, and yet not altogether, for with it we had a feeling of pleasant surprise. The Service, at any rate, in one respect, was an assured success, for there were no vacant seats inside.

We arranged ourselves among those who stood by and observed if perchance we might see some familiar faces among the other disappointed ones. A lady approached the closed doors, confident that they would open to her touch, for she was a member of York Street and she must have felt it strange to be crowded out of her own service. By and by a goodly contingent drew near, and at its head, or rather in its midst, we espied the genial face of our Dromore minister, and we felt pleased that we were not the only ones who had come from a distance. Moments passed and greetings were exchanged, when from within we heard the strains of a familiar hymn accompanied by an instrumental band—the Edenderry Brass and Reed Band, we were informed, for by now we were talking freely to people whom we did not know at least by name, but we felt that we all knew each other, for we were all of the one crowd on the footpath, who had hoped and tried to be at the service. Experiences were exchanged, and opinions were freely expressed as if we had known each other for years. One said that she was once a Methodist, but became dissatified with the views of that body, and then tried the Orthodox Presbyterians, only to be filled with dissatisfaction once again. Now she is an enthusiastic member of York Street, with many others whose experiences

had been the same, and eloquent in her admiration of her minister's frankness, honesty and daring. While we were about to leave, our attention was drawn to a view of the interior, as seen through the glass door, and there in the distance stood the speaker, and from the satisfied expressions on our companions' faces, who evidently regarded him as specially their own, we were led to infer that all was well, and had they not often heard 'that Belfast would not listen to his voice?' and 'was not Belfast to-night at his door?' 'For when before had there been such a crowd at a Service here?' and 'where were his detractors now?'

Others of the York Street people pressed us with invitations to go to their hall for a cup of tea before we returned home, but we reluctantly decided otherwise, fearing lest by any means the fine impression might in any way be impaired—that with a little more courage, a little more frankness, a little more enthusiasm, how much more could be done in other places as was being splendidly done here and now.

—A. P.

Shivering for the Sake of Warmth.

In welcoming the British and Foreign Unitarian Association to Liverpool for the Autumnal Meetings the Rev. Lawrence Redfern, M.A., "in a genial and humorous speech, assured visitors whom they were so pleased to receive that evening that in order to provide a literally 'warm' welcome for them the Ullet Road people had gone shivering for sometime past while saving up their coal for that occasion!"

* * *

The canvasser called at the lady's house soliciting a vote for a municipal candidate.

"Oh," said the lady, "I never vote now either at a municipal or Parliamentary election. There was only one man who ever went to Westminster and tried to do his duty."

"And who was that?" asked the canvasser.

"Guy Fawkes," exclaimed the voter as she slammed the door.

* * *

Armistice Day was observed throughout the Empire and almost throughout the world. Flanders poppies were sold everywhere.

It is to be hoped that disabled ex-Service men will be greatly comforted and helped by the great success of the venture.

Correspondence.

Letters and Manuscripts for the Editor should be sent to the Manse, Killinchy, not later than the 16th of each month.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents. Letters cannot be inserted without the name and address of the sender.

STUDENTS' AND MINISTERS' FUND.

SIR,

Mr. Agnew's letter relating to the aid given to students for the ministry conveys the implication that the Students' and Ministers' Fund really exists for the benefit of Students. Originally the Fund was not a Students' Fund at all, but was the Professional Fund, and ministers have just as much right to receive aid from it, as have students.

Students have been dealt with very liberally, and with great consideration, and as a result, in one case, after having received aid for seven years, without even coming into our ministry, the Student immediately entered the ministry of another church. Mr. Agnew has announced that he has a friend, whom he would recommend to apply to the Presbyterians, instead of to the Association, as he would have the chance of better bursaries there. From what some of us know of Presbyterians, and the reception such an application is likely to get, he is quite welcome to refer his application to that quarter.

PRESBYTER.

STUDENTS' AND MINISTERS' AUXILIARY FUND.

To the Editor of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian,

SIR,—In a letter in your issue of November, Mr. Agnew indulges in a general fault finding, and among other things blames the Trustees of the above Fund for withholding assistance to Students for the Ministry, and implies—if I understand him right—that there is a plethora of funds at their disposal for bringing up babies from their cradles for the Ministry, but that the Trustees have made a set of Rules for the distribution of the Funds which are foolish and unjust, and which they will not or cannot change.

The Funds of this Trust were settled in 1918 by the Court of Chancery. The

Scheme provides that Rules must be drawn up to regulate the payment of the Funds and that these Rules must be sanctioned by the Association. The Trustees sought information as to how the Rules could best be framed from all available sources and when drawn up they submitted them to the assembled members of the Association for approval and availed themselves of any suggestions made.

One of the Rules expressly states that they **can be altered.** If Mr. Agnew reads the Rules, I cannot understand his reference to the Laws of the Medes and Persians, but even if he neglected to read them he had no ground for his statement, for before the time his letter appeared he was actually in correspondence with me as to having some of the Rules altered.

I told him that if he would send me a draft of his alterations I would bring the draft before the Trustees, and if the alterations were passed, I would send them on to the Association for approval.

I have, up to the present received no drafts from him. I offered, if he had any difficulty in putting his suggestions into writing, to draft new Rules if he would set out clearly and definitely what he suggested. I have received no suggestions in reply to my offer.

Faithfully yours,
J. W. M'NINCH.

Larne, 20th Nov., 1926.

Temperance Notes.

Only Too True !

A correspondent sent me a cutting of a whiskey advertisement. I will quote portions of it here, and ask you to note that the underlining and the comment " Only too True " are my correspondent's. Of course we will not name the particular blend.

> " There is this about ---, **its flavour grows on you.** At first it is different and softer, then different and richer, finally different and far more satisfying. To ensure that ——— reaches you, exactly as they wish you to receive it, ——— seal and bottle it on their own premises. Drink ——— for a week and **you'll drink it for all time."**

The Late Will Reason.

Sociologists in general and temperance reformers in particular have lost an earnest stalwart in the person of the late Rev. Will Reason. He combined a great religious earnestness with sound knowledge of economic conditions. Most of our readers will possess a copy of his very helpful " Handbook to the Drink Problem," published in the Spring of this year, by the Student Christian Movement. 1/6 paper.

" Truth " Will Out.

" Truth " October 20th, page 671, draws attention to a speech delivered by a Director of the Johnnie Walker firm. This gentleman appeared much incensed that Prohibitionists and others had told that " Punch " refuses liquor advertisements— whereas, says he " It was not ' Punch ' that had refused them, but they had refused ' Punch.' "

We learn that the Trade found the new advertisement rate charged by " Punch " to be too exorbitant. So it is a " Lock-out."

Here is " Truth's " comment thereon. " I expect that ' Punch ' thought that if the distillers and the public were fools enough to pay a voluntary tax of 8/5 on every bottle of whiskey, they might as well have a bit more."—(Vide " Temperance Notes " for November.—*Punch* and Liquor Advertisements).

" Labour " and Drink, 1904.

The " Inquirer's " front page recently had this quotation from John Burns (" Lees and Raper " Lecture, 1904).

DEMOCRACY AND DRINK.

> " There is a strong desire on the part of the poor to cut themselves adrift from the curse of liquor and the taint of drink ; to wipe out the heavy mortgage on health that poverty-stricken surroundings impose by luring them to drink. There is a healthier, because more tolerant, spirit abroad, to combat drink, not only by preaching abstinence, but by adopting all and every means to substitute transient palliatives and passing correctives which will tend to the ultimate repression of our national evil. In so doing, we shall hasten the permanent and greatest boon —the abandonment of liquor by all who labour. . . Governing virtues are incompatib'e with drink, drunkenness, or the disorders and incapacity that spring from them. If we are to install a democracy in power, exalt its leaders to office, elevate a people to the judgment seat, that democracy must be sober, its leaders must not drink, and the working people must be superior to the temptation of liquor in all its forms."

" Labour " To-day.

Here is a striking declaration issued by the Labour Party in the Report of a Special Committee in that part dealing with a careful inquiry which was made into the Drink Problem—

" The conclusion cannot be escaped that, whatever loss of pleasure might be involved in a total abandonment of the consumption of alcoholic beverages, there would be little or no less of health or efficiency; and, on the other hand, a vast, though incalculable, gain in health and strength, in physical and mental capacity, and especially—taking into account the improved social conditions obtainable from the amount now spent in drink—in both quantitative and qualitative efficiency. Our failure as a nation to achieve these improvements must be counted as part of the public cost of the drink traffic."

P.G.

Obituary.

Mr. W. T. Hamilton, Belfast.

We regret to record the death of Mr. William Thomas Hamilton, who passed away on November 1st, at his residence, Claireden, 4 Lennoxvale, Belfast. The deceased gentleman, who was seventy-eight years of age, was a director of Messrs. Robinson & Cleaver, and associated with the firm for over forty years.

Born at Clare, Waringstown, Mr. Hamilton, after a good practical education, was apprenticed to the damask weaving trade at Ballykelly, Banbridge, and subsequently came to Belfast, where he entered the employment of the late Mr. Patterson, of Bedford Street. Shortly afterwards he began business as a damask and linen merchant. He entered into partnership with the late Mr. Hugh Robinson, a brother of one of the founders of Messrs. Robinson & Cleaver, and for a number of years carried on a successful business in the old Linen Hall, afterwards in Queen Street.

On becoming associated with Messrs. Robinson & Cleaver, Mr. Hamilton's duties were chiefly concerned with the control of the company's linen manufacturing factory at Banbridge. When the firm became a limited liability company about a quarter of a century ago he was appointed one of its directors.

Mr. Hamilton was a man of kindly disposition and generous impulses. He was in politics a staunch Unionist. In the Masonic Order, he was greatly esteemed, and was Worshipful Master of Lodge 109, just over forty years ago.

Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Bangor Congregation

SERVICE EACH SUNDAY EVENING

At 7 o'clock,

IN

Thompson's Tea Rooms, Main St.

(OPPOSITE POST OFFICE)

Minister: Rev. A. Whitford, Moneyrea.

Hon, Treasurer:
Mr. T. LILLIE,
6 Bingham St., Bangor.

Hon. Secretary:
Mr. GEORGE HILL,
45 Ballyholme Esplanade.

Mr. Hamilton was an adherent and long an office-bearer of the First Presbyterian Church, Belfast ; and by his death the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian body has lost a most faithful and valuable member. At the meeting held this year in celebration of the Jubilee of the Ulster Unitarian Christian Association, Mr. Hamilton took part as a Member of its Committee from its inception. In the work of practically every kindred agency, supported by our Ulster friends, he had an active share ; and his removal will be deeply felt. A widower and childless, Mr. Hamilton's nieces brightened his home in his later years.

The service in the house and also at the graveside in the City Cemetery, on November 3rd, was conducted by the Rev. H. J. Rossington.

Miss Rowan, Belfast.

Through the death of the above lady, on November 11th, our body lost a devoted and lifelong member. The eldest daughter of John Rowan, Mount Collyer, once a well-known Belfast manufacturer, she had superntended for many years a successful Nursing Home in Great Victoria Street, Belfast. There she had won the confidence and support of the medical profession, and gained the esteem of a wide circle of friends. She had excellent business qualities and in addition many which endeared her to all, sound judgment, absolute veracity in word and deed, the courage to hold and proclaim her own convictions, the most generous and loyal regard for her friends—these traits characterised her. No one could mistake her attachment to the Non-Subscribing Church or her devoted interest in the work of the First Congregation, Belfast. When able she was always in her place on the Sundays, and gave time and thought to the work of organisations like the Dorcas Society and the Domestic Mission. Advancing age and failing strength made church attendances latterly impossible, but up to the last her interest in church affairs was unabated.

The funeral was private on November 13th, the service in the house being conducted by the Rev. H. J. Rossington. The latter also conducted the graveside service at Ballylinney, where her remains were laid to rest near those of her grandfather and father.

Mrs. Watters.

On Tuesday, September 21st the widow of Captain Watters passed away, after years of unusual suffering from a painful malady. She was buried the following Thursday at the City Cemetery.

Mrs. Watters in her younger days was a staunch and devoted member of our York Street Congregation. After her marriage she joined Mountpottinger and would no doubt have repeated her record at York Street, but for the increasing cares of family life.

Throughout her long affliction she displayed a wondrous spirit and patience, and this Christ-like virtue inspired and strengthened the hands of those who ministered to her comfort.

To the sorrowing son and his wife, the sisters, and brother we tender our sincere sympathy, in their bereavement.

Charles Mitchell.

The death of Charles Mitchell occurred with tragic suddenness on Tuesday morning, October 26th, as he was getting ready to set off to his work. He had been suffering from blood-pressure for a considerable time, but the salubrious air of Millisle which he had enjoyed for some months at intervals, seemed to have improved his health so much, that the news of his death cast a gloom over a wide circle of friends.

Mr. Mitchell was a native of the neighbourhood of Aberdeen. He settled in Belfast some twenty-five years ago as Foreman of the Carriage and Wagon Department of the Belfast and County Down Railway. Upright and honest in all his ways he believed that the principles of the Christian religion should be expressed in terms of daily life, and in labour worthily and truly performed.

The interment took place the following Thursday at Dundonald, and the funeral which was large and representative testified to the high regard in which he was held by the Company, and the affectionate esteem he had won for himself among the workmen.

To his sorrowing widow, sons and daughters, the deepest sympathy is felt in their sad and unexpected bereavement.

Sadie M'Robert.

On Saturday morning, October 30th., Sadie the daughter of Charles M'Robert, passed away, after an attack of bronchial pneumonia. Frail in body, and retiring in disposition, Sadie's lofty spirit endeared her

to a large number of friends, young and old. Her faithfulness at public worship was a mark of her devotion to the life of the Spirit. Wise and loving beyond her years, her bereaved parents, sister and brothers will cherish her memory as one who helped them to value the higher and holier things of life.

The interment took place on Monday, November 1st, at Rademon. To the mourning family profound sympathy is felt.

The services in these bereaved households and at the graves were conducted by the minister. The Rev. A. O. Ashworth, assisted at the funeral of Mrs. Watters.

Mrs. T. Bryans.

With profound regret we announce the death of Mrs. T. Bryans, which took place on Monday, October 18th, after a long trying illness, at her residence, Clarkhill, Annsborough. The deceased lady was an ardent member of Clough Congregation and she was intensely interested in the work of the church. She was a woman of sterling qualities, wise and kindly in her ways; untiring with her help where there was sickness, need or trouble in the district, all the children, as well as the animals round about knew her door for her love was great, and as love begets love, she was loved by all classes and creeds. She delighted in going about doing good.

Her memory will be evergreen and her name will be blessed among those who had the privilege of knowing her. The funeral on the following Wednesday, was exceptionally large and the manifestation of sorrow general. Her remains were laid to rest in our Church burying-ground, in Banbridge, She leaves a grown up family of two sons and five daughters to mourn her loss. Rev. J. D. Davies officiated at the home, and Revs. Cordner, Castlewellan and P. Godding, at the graveside.

Debt Extinction Fund.

The Business Agent, Rev. G. J. Slipper, acknowledges with thanks, the following subscriptions on behalf of the Debt Extinction Fund. :—

Previously acknowledged ..	£26	7	0
W. S. Patton, Greyabbey ..	0	5	0
Sir John Campbell, Belfast ..	2	0	0
Miss Warnock, Newry	0	10	0
Rev. J. H. Bibby, Ballee ..	1	0	0

Further subscriptions are urgently needed, and will be gratefully received.

Contributory Insurance Fund.

The following represents the list of Subscriptions paid or promised on account of the Contributory Insurance Fund. It does not include subscriptions sent direct by individuals to the Hon. Treasurer in England, but only those received by myself, acting on behalf of the Non-Subscribing Church.

"A Friend," Belfast	£10	0	0
Mrs. Hadow, Bangor, Co. Down ..	10	0	0
Mrs. Maguire, Bangor, Co. Down ..	10	0	0
Sir John Campbell, Holywood, Co. Down	10	0	0
Dr. T. K. Greenfield, Holywood, Co. Down	5	5	0
Belfast Chapter, Laymen's League ..	5	0	0
Miss C. M. Dobbin, Belfast ..	5	0	0
C. C. Greenfield, Esq., Holywood, Co. Down	5	0	0
Miss S. R. Praeger, Holywood, Co. Down	5	0	0
Dr. M. Brice Smyth, Belfast ..	5	0	0
W. Patterson, Esq., Holywood, Co. Down	5	0	0
W. J. A. Morrow, Esq., Belfast ..	3	3	0
Miss K. S. Neill, Holywood, Co. Down	3	3	0
Rev. A. Davison, Dromore ..	2	2	0
Miss Gracey, Belfast	2	2	0
Rev. E. Lockett, Holywood, Co. Down	2	2	0
Rev. G. J. Slipper, Newry ..	2	2	0
Rev. S. P. Whitehouse, Belfast ..	2	2	0
W. K. Graham, Esq., Holywood, Co. Down	2	0	0
R. M. Laird, Esq., Belfast ..	2	0	0
Rev. P. Godding, Banbridge ..	1	1	0
D. M. Lindsay, Esq., Dromore ..	1	1	0
Miss Matilda Miniss, Dromore ..	1	1	0
Carley Miniss, Esq., J.P., Dromore ..	1	1	0
H. G. Roche, Esq., Belfast. ..	1	1	0
Rev. M. Watkins, Belfast ..	1	1	0
Rev. A. Whitford, Moneyrea ..	1	1	0
A Preacher's fee	1	0	0
Total	£104	8	0

For the above I wish to express my gratitude, but confidently expect further subscriptions from members of our Irish community.

Yours sincerely,
HERBERT J. ROSSINGTON,
Hon. Treasurer.

Reports.

Unity Guild.—The Annual Entertainment to the Blind was given in York Street Hall, on Saturday, October 30th. There were about 80 blind present and they all spent a very enjoyable evening. After tea there was a programme, the following artists taking part, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Ferguson, Miss Ada Beattie, Miss Annie Newman, Miss Eileen Miller, Mr. M'Cafferty, Mr. Lusk, Miss F. Newman acted as accompanist.

Miss Kane and Mr. Hanna from the party of blind also contributed items. The best thanks of the Guild are due to these ladies and gentlemen and also to all who so generously sent cakes, etc., or a contribution towards the expenses of the evening. On Wednesday, November 10th, a Debate was held in York Street Hall. The subject was "That a minister of religion should interfere in Industry," The chair was taken by the President (Rev. S. P. Whitehouse). The motion was opposed by Mr. Caldwell, B.A., who held that as a minister was in the world to help others, he could most successfully do this by seeing that wages and working conditions were good; and, if not, he should take steps to have them improved. The ministers should only interfere after due thought and should suggest rather than dictate. He cited the conditions before the Reformation when the Church fixed hours, prices and other industrial matters. Mr. Caldwell held that in helping in industry a minister was performing his most important duty. Mr. Forrester, B.A., who opposed the motion, said that religious sentiment did not go hand in hand with a practical mind and harm would be done if an unpractical man interfered. Mr. Forrester said that there were two main duties of a minister (1) to preach; (2) to attend to the sick and dying. If he were allowed to interfere in industry he would be thinking for you and you would lose your individuality. The church he admitted had partially failed in its work, were we going to allow it to interfere outside its sphere and fail there too? The Chairman then declared the subject open for discussion, and the following spoke. For the motion, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Senior, Mrs. Hobson, Mr. Woolley, Mrs. M'Kay and Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A. Those who spoke against the motion were Mr. M'Mullan, Mr. Craig, Mr. M'Bride and Mr. M'Gladdin. The voting went almost unanimously in favour of the motion.

Ballycarry.—Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on the 3rd Sunday of October at the Old Presbyterian Church. The sacred edifice was beautifully decorated with emblems of the harvest. At the morning service, the preacher was the Minister, loci, the church being well filled. In the evening the preacher was the Rev. John Beggs, Larne, when the church was filled with an overflowing congregation. Gifts of fruit, vegetables and corn were received (amongst others) from Messrs. Douglas, Service, Miller, Burns, Wisnom, M'Kee, M'Master, Campbell, Connor, Paisley and Robinson. The young people of the congregation Messrs. M'Kee, Robinson, Connor, Mrs. W. Millar, Miss Hamilton, were responsible for the decorations. Mr. W. P. Campbell of Ailsa Craig, Whitehead, presided at the organ, which greatly added to the beauty of the service. The choir rendered in a pleasing manner special harvest music. At the Monthly Social Evening held by the choir, at the Schoolroom of the Old Presbyterian Church, a presentation was made to Mrs. M'Cartney, on the recent occasion of her marriage. Rev. W. G. Marsden, minister, after a few congratulatory remarks called on Mr. Alex. Ellis, choirmaster, formally to make the presentation (a silver teapot), on behalf of the members of the choir. Mr. M'Cartney suitably acknowledged the gift on behalf of his wife.

Banbridge.—Every year we believe our beautiful old church is more tastefully decorated for the Harvest Thanksgiving Services than ever before. This year was no exception to the rule. The front of the pulpit in particular with its wonderful blending of gold and red and green, was a beautiful centrepiece to the whole delightful scheme. The many pillars were festooned with corn; the windows resplendent with naturally climbing foliage. Those responsible (and we are glad that more of our young people assisted this year) are to be very sincerely congratulated for their labours. The church was filled at the evening service. The Rev. Edgar Lockett, our Moderator, conducted both services and gave very practical and appreciated Harvest sermons. Miss Dornan, our talented organist, very ably officiated at the praise portion of the service, and was very effectively assisted by her augmented choir. The singing was worthy of the occasion. The anthems, which were feelingly rendered by the choir were "I will open rivers in high places," and "Hark, hark! my Soul," and the solo parts taken by Mr. Robert Foster. As a result of the collections, ,ten pounds were sent to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Ballyclare.—Harvest Festival Services were held on Sunday, October 31st, the special preacher for the day being the Rev. J. J. Magill, B.A. (Rademon). Our best thanks are hereby accorded to Mr. Magill for his appropriate and stimulating discourses. In the evening the Rev. S. E. Bowen and Rev. A. M. Bell assisted with the

readings. The church was tastefully decorated with corn, fruit, flowers, etc., gifts of members and friends, and sincere thanks are tendered to the donors for the evidence thus shown in the success of the festival. Our gratitude is also due to those who undertook the work of decorating which gave them credit for artistic taste, the pulpit, and choir platform presenting a very pleasing appearance. In addition to the usual harvest hymns the choir rendered very beautifully the anthem, "I will praise Thee, O Lord," in which Mr. John Harson sang the bass solo parts with pleasing effect.

Cairncastle Old Meeting House.—The interior of the Old Meeting House has recently undergone one of those changes of colour reputed to be possible for chameleons —probably more completely though less speedily than those creatures would do it. For fifteen years the interior walls wore a sombre green hue of a very restful shade—possibly conducive to too much disposition to rest. For two Sundays the worshippers saw them no more, but met within the walls of their School House. This was a kind of preparation for the change that was coming; for the interior of the Schoolroom had been painted in the Summer of last year (by Mr. James M'Clelland, a member of the Congregational Committee, with his own hands and at his own expense), a kind of yellow shade usually described as old gold; and when they met for worship at 4 o'clock on the third Sunday in the Meeting House itself, they found that its walls had taken on a somewhat similar shade, one suggestive of awakening, courage and vitality. The preacher for the occasion was the newly installed minister of Larne, Rev. John Begg, who was accompanied by a good many members of his own Congregation. The friendly people of two other christian denominations in the neighbourhood helped to make a very good assembly, and although there had been no printed advertisement, there was a substantial offertory towards the cost of the recent decoration. In the same week, on the 22nd September, Mr. Morrow, of the Knowhead, Cairncastle—another James, and another Committee man, formerly of Kanestown, near Glenarm—got himself married in the Old Meeting House, to Miss Molly Galbraith, also formerly a member of a Glenarm flock, though not that of the same venerable shepherd. On 11th October, a Meeting of the Presbytery of Templepatrick was held in the same Cairncastle Church. The proceedings began with a devotional service at which were present six of the seven ministers of the Presbytery with three lay elders, and ten other persons, members of the local congregation, also Mr. John M'Cleery, son of the minister of Raloo, who, having intimated his desire to prepare for entering into the ministry of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland, was afterwards seriously interviewed by the Presbytery, that being the principal business of the meeting. Mr. John M'Cleery, junior, presented certificates of good education, a good bill of health, and good credentials, he answered the questions of the Presbytery as to his principles, intentions and aspriations to their satisfaction. He also read, upon being requested to do so, a passage from the scriptures. The eldest minister present expressed the expectation that, after fit training, Mr. M'Cleery would make in due course a very useful kind of minister. At the conclusion of business, about a dozen of the company repaired to the Schoolroom and sat down to a cup of tea, which had quite an exhilarating and inspiring effect upon at least one of the clergymen. A Harvest Service was held on Sunday, 17th October, at 4 o'clock (when the preacher was the Rev. Edgar Lockett, of Holywood, Moderator of the Non-Subscribing Church), and another at 7-30 p.m. the next day. The decorations were as elaborate as ever.

Comber.—The Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held on Sunday, 3rd October. The church was tastefully decorated by the ladies of the congregation. The choir rendered two anthems which were much appreciated. Large congregations assembled, extra forms and chairs were brought into accommodate the evening gathering. Special collections were taken up on behalf of the Choir Fund. The minister officiated at both services. Miss E. Andrews presided at the organ and Mr. W. Munn acted as choir conductor. Grateful thanks are due to all who contributed gifts for the decorations. The Young People's Society opened the Winter's work with a Social Evening on Wednesday, November 3rd. There was a fine gathering of young people present. Miss Gladys Ferguson had charge of the refreshments, and right well did she fulfil her task. We were favoured with the presence and assistance of the Misses Newman, Belfast, Rev. J. G. Davies, sang a couple of songs. The dance music and accompaniments were supplied by Miss A. Newman, Dr. Murphy. Miss Murphy and Mr. Jack Gillespie. The

Second Session of the Women's League began this month, when the annual Meeting was held. The officers were elected for the ensuing year. The resignations of the Treasurer, Miss Munn, and the Secretary, Mrs. Cecil Andrews, were received with great regret. The League is fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. R. Milling as Hon. Secretary, and Miss Hind, as Hon. Treasurer. The Committee were re-elected. The plans for the forthcoming year include work parties for an effort to be made in aid of the Distressed Aged Ministers' and Widows' Fund on December 4th. The effort will take the form of an American gift sale. Mrs. Thomas Andrews, of Ardara, has kindly consented to open the sale at 2-30 p.m. The opening service was conducted by Mrs. Thompson, of Cairncastle, on October 25th. There was a very good attendance, and new members enrolled. Mrs. Thompson took as her theme, the words, " Liberty, truth and faith," which she said was the Unitarian motto. Mrs. Thompson described the beautiful stained glass windows in Manchester College, Oxford, by Burne Jones, which illustrated these subjects, and showed illustrations of them. Two solos were beautifully rendered by Mrs. Hugh Ferguson, accompanied by Mrs. R. Ferguson. On November 1st., the League paid a visit to the First Church, Belfast, for a united All Hallowe'en Party, when members of all branches in the North met together for a festive evening.

Larne.—The 1st Annual Meeting of the Larne Branch of the Women's League was held on 25th October. The Secretary's report showed a very successful year's work. There were 42 present among which were many new members. Miss S. E. Kinder was re-elected President, and Mrs. Begg consented to act as Vice-President. Miss M'Ninch and Miss R. Crawford, were re-elected Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, respectively.

Moira.—This Old Meeting House was most beautifully decorated, exhibiting a feast of colour with blooms and autumnal foliage, vegetables, fruit and grain on the occasion of our Harvest Services of Thanksgiving and Praise. The special preacher on Sunday was the Rev. J. H. Kelly, whose discourse was much appreciated. The choir was augmented from Banbridge and Miss Dornan officiated at the organ. The many friends responsible for the decorative scheme are to be congratulated. The Banbridge and other friends were hospitably entertained after the service. On Monday night, the Rev. A. L. Agnew, with his choir from York Street, conducted a Service of Praise. The splendid attendance of an appreciative people who were privileged to hear a very practical and appropriate address proved that sometimes a prophet can receive honour in his own country. Our Moira friends again entertained the visitors at the close of service.

Mountpottinger.—As a preliminary to the Christmas Sale of Work a very successful American Tea was held in the Schoolroom on Saturday, November 6th, under the auspices of the Women's League. A long-felt want has been supplied by the purchase of a new piano for the Sunday School, the Church Committee having been influenced in their decision by a very favourable quotation which included a generous allowance for the old instrument. During the past month the Renovation Sub-Committee has been again active and their activities have included the fitting of new gas lights in the Schoolroom which have considerably brightened that portion of the building. We regret to report that our popular Choir Secretary, Mr. Lewis Watters has undergone an operation for appendicitis but is now in the convalescent stage so before long we hope he will be able to resume his customary regular attendance. The Band of Hope has recommenced its activities and had a very successful opening night on November 10th, when the Minister was in the Chair.

Raloo.—Harvest Services were held here on Sunday, 31st October, at four o'clock, and on Monday evening at 7 p.m. The interior of the Meeting House which had been renovated recently was tastefully decorated by a few ladies of the congregation and presented an attractive appearance. The Rev. J. Begg, Larne, officiated on Sunday afternoon and delivered a very suitable and practical sermon, which was very much appreciated by a large congregation. The soloist was Miss Laing, whose beautiful voice was heard to advantage in " Thanks be to God," and Mrs. W. Drummond accompanied her on the harmonium. On Monday evening the preacher was the Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., who delivered a most eloquent and impressive address. Although the evening was wet and stormy many people made their way ankle deep in water to hear this energetic and promising young minister. The Harvest hymns were heartily rendered by an augmented choir, Miss Meta Gray very ably presided at the harmonium.

Warrenpoint.—The Re-Opening Service, after renovation, of the above church, was

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held on Sunday afternoon, the 31st October, and was conducted by the Rev. Alexander Gordon, M.A., for some years Principal of the Unitarian Home Missionary College, Manchester, and a staunch friend of the congregation. In the course of an interesting and helpful sermon, the venerable preacher referred to the important place which the Temple of God occupied in the religious life of Israel. David, he remarked, desired to build a Temple to the honour of God, but was not permitted to do so because he had been a man of war and had shed blood; and Solomon, whose name denoted "Peace," carried out his father's desire. Reference was made also to the early association of that "Meeting House," a term which, the preacher said, was more appropriate than "Church," as signifying the gathering together of men and women for worship. The "Meeting House" in which they worshipped dated back to early in the 18th century, although the present building probably was built in the year 1820. Employing the incident of our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet, the preacher exhorted the members to consecrate themselves to service and faithfulness to the duty of worship. There was a fair attendance, which included several friends from Newry, and the praise service was hearty, Mrs. Robb presiding at the harmonium. The offertory, on behalf of the Church funds, was generous.

N.B.—Several communications have to be held over for want of space.—*Editor.*

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